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**Articles : Original and Selected.**

**EXTRACTS FROM A LECTURE ON SELF-CULTURE.\***

BY DR. S. P. ROBINS, MONTREAL.

*Extract 1. Derivation and meaning of the word Culture.*—The word “culture” is derived by us from the French. But, inasmuch as French itself is but abbreviated Latin, less stately, perhaps, but more nimble than the language from which it is descended, we find the earliest accessible form of the word in the future participle “culturus” of the Latin verb “colere” to till. Hence sprung the Latin word “cultura,” meaning the act of tillage. This, in accordance with a well-known law of modification in passing from Latin into French, exchanged its final *a* for the final *e* of the French word, its full round Latin *u* shrinking with time into the then French sound, which was also the Greek sound of upsilon, so that the word emerges in French as “culture” with a suspicion of sound in the final letter.

When the word emerges in literary English, written English, the struggle between the Saxon and the French pronunciations of *u*, of which our English spelling and pronunciation bear so many traces, issued in a compromise. The first *u* reverts to the short Saxon *u* as in cull, and the second *u* takes that peculiar diphthongal sound

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